



Echoes from Barkmere – September 2019

Here is a summary of the last Council meeting held Saturday, September 14th 2019:

Concerning the extended hunting season this year aimed at killing as many deer as possible to stop the spreading of the deer's chronic wasting disease, Mayor Trépanier informs us that our efforts to force the Ministry of Forestry, Fauna and Parks to step back, have been in vain. Many groups of municipalities, citizens and hunters have been formed to contest their decision. The office of the Argenteuil MNA pressed the minister and we have issued a press release. Newspaper articles have been published to denounce this nonsensical decision. Sadly, the bureaucrats of the Ministry turned a deaf ear, and have continued to implement what they consider to be the "good" approach, even if everyone else, municipalities, MNA, citizens, hunters, consider it a catastrophe. The mayor is imploring all citizens to act with extreme prudence **starting next Saturday, September 21st, for a period of 8 weeks**. Avoid walks in the forest (which are so nice at this time of year), and be also prudent around your residences. With the leaves still in the trees, visibility is reduced and the rule of 150 metres margin of hunting-free zone around your residence will not be respected. If you are a hunter, be aware that our territory will probably be invaded by "shooters" from elsewhere, who do not know the land. If a hunter enters your private property, here is what the SQ recommends:

1. Do not go and meet the hunter in the forest;
2. Wait and once out, talk cordially to the hunter;
3. Try to find a compromise by discussing;
4. Identify their car if possible.

- The town has presented the financial statements for 2018 which was closed late this year on account of a gap before hiring a new administrative assistant. All in all, the town is doing very well and presents a surplus for 2018.
- Mr. Jake Michael Chadwick presented an update on the Eurasian milfoil removal program. Less than 200 plants have been removed, a reduction of 70% from last year. The vast majority were found on the north shore of Silver Bay in small groups or single plants. There were no big colonies. At this point, we can confidently say that this year's efforts of the milfoil dive team and our volunteers, combined with prior years' work leave us ahead of its propagation as numbers have decreased year after year. We will continue our efforts in the years to come to eradicate the invasive specie.
- We have finally found a contractor to build a new toilet / shed on Goulden Island. Work will start soon and is entirely subsidised by the TECQ (gas tax).
- Mayor Trépanier informs us that instead of launching itself in a very costly adventure to extend its own fibre optic network on its territory, the MRC decided to support Cogeco in their projects. We can hope to have one day very high speed Internet in the town center. But for residents on the Lake, FILAU will probably remain the only solution, along with cellular links, of course.
- Please be aware that we will be sending a survey this week to have your opinion on what you think about the landing: its boathouses, your needs and improvements and suggestions that you might have.

Once again, for more details, consult the minutes of the council meeting that will be posted on the town's website once they are ratified, generally at the, next council meeting.

Here is a picture of a white-tailed deer, for your enjoyment because we might not see them anymore for quite a while in our area.



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